HEALTH
13 JUN 53
C.R. 5

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1952

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

Members of the Council

(1952-1953)

Chairman:

A. FARR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

N. SLADDEN

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

R. A. ATKINSON

W. G. BACK, J.P.

W. G. D. CAMERON

A. J. C. CATFORD

T. J. DAVIES

A. DEVLIN

H. LETCH

D. E. J. SMITH

W. H. SPRATT

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. S. RUCK, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks:

E. P. MOLYNEUX

MRS. I. M. PENTECOST

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1952.

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate of 19 per thousand is higher, and the Death Rate of 6.8 per thousand lower, than the average rates for the past twenty-five years. Both rates compare very favourably with those for London and the whole country.

Diphtheria

A monthly clinic is held for immunisation and close co-operation is maintained with the Divisional Medical Officer. One hundred and twelve children were immunised at the clinic during the year. For the seventh successive year there were no notifications of diphtheria.

Tuberculosis

There were 14 new cases during the year as compared with 15, 11, 10, 15 and 12 respectively in the years 1951 to 1947 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

Statistics for the district are available for the past twenty-nine years. During the whole of that time, this is the first year that there have been no deaths from tuberculosis.

Food

Frequent samples were taken, during the year, from Ice Cream manufacturers and vendors and from milk retailers. Results are given on pages 16 and 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Routine inspections are carried out at all food preparers in the district. The standard of hygiene maintained is generally satisfactory.

Housing

One hundred and ninety-six permanent housing units were completed and occupied during the year, 163 by the Council and 33 privately. In addition 812 houses were completed and occupied on the London County Council Housing Site No. 2.

One hundred and seventy inspections and visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the Rural Housing Survey. A variety of housing defects were found and remedied. The High Street Elstree Clearance Area (affecting three houses) was initiated at the close of the year.

General

I would like to express my thanks once more to the Council for their support during the year and to the Sanitary Inspector and officials generally for their willing help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. Winn Everett
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area		8,339 acres
Population, 1931 Census*		5,946
Population, 1951 Census		14,757
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1952 ..		16,700
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books	Elstree ..	3,974
	Shenley ..	603
	Ridge ..	78
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953)		£164,045
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1953)		£700

* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographing processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the London Midland Region Railway Line. On the east side of the London Midland Region Railway Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected prior to and during the war and further development of the industrial area has taken place during the post war period. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

During the year 812 houses were completed and occupied on the L.C.C. Housing Site No. 2 (Ripon Way area) making a total of 1,053, and the erection of houses had commenced on Site No. 1 (Theobald Street).

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	306	162	144
	Illegitimate	11	5	6

Birth Rate: 19.0 per 1,000 *estimated resident population.*

	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	4	1	3

Rate: 12.5 per 1,000 *total (live and still) births*

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion — Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 of year age			
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infant Death Rates:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	18.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	19.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	—

Deaths (all causes)	114	72	42

Death Rate: 6.8 per 1,000 *estimated average population.*

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the Country as a whole) is given as 1.04 for births and 1.14 for Deaths. The following table shows how the local birth and death rates compare with those given for London and for the whole country.

	Elstree R.D.C.	Administrative County of London	England & Wales
Birth Rate	19.7*	17.6	15.3
Death Rate	7.8*	12.6	11.3

* Actual rate × Comparability Factor to give Standardised rate.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.
One Senior and one additional Sanitary Inspector.
(Both whole-time, both qualified Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors).

2. (*a*) Laboratory Facilities

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council Laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(*b*) Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital, Muswell Hill. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at the Fire Station, Manor Way, and is manned by the Herts Fire and Ambulance Brigade Staff. If this service is not available Ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(*c*) Nursing in the Home

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying four whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. Two whole-time Health Visitors cover the Elstree Rural District.

(*d*) Treatment Centres and Clinics

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare First Aid Post, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood.	Ante-Natal: 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2 p.m. Infants: Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m. Diphtheria Immunisation: 2nd Wednesday in each month at 10 a.m.
(ii) School Dental Clinic Hillside Secondary Modern School Boreham Wood.	(Closed as from 1st May 1948 due to resignation of School Dental Officer.)

(*e*) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group (No. 5) Hospital Management Committee

Barnet General Hospital	General Hospital with complement of 478 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:— Ante-natal, Dental, Dermatological, Chiropody, Ear, nose and throat, Geriatric, Gynaecological, Medical, Neurology, Opthalmic, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Physical medicine, Post-natal, Psychiatric, Radiotherapy, Sub-Fertility (Males), Surgical, Tuberculosis
St. Stephens Hospital (formerly Barnet Isolation Hospital)	Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.
Victoria Hospital, Wood Street, Barnet.	Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 Maternity beds and 48 cots.
Clare Hall Hospital, South Mimms.	Tuberculosis Sanatorium.
Elmbank Hospital, Arkley.	Hospital for chronic sick aged female patients with complement of 27 beds.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Hill End Hospital and Clinic, St. Albans.	Psychiatric and Child Guidance service. Mondays to Fridays: 9 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Patients seen by appointment only)
St. Albans City Hospital, Osterhills Unit, Normandy Road, St. Albans.	Venereal Diseases: Attendances: Females: Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays 1.30 to 4 p.m. Males: Wednesdays 2 to 3.30 p.m. Fridays 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey Hospital, Bushey.	General Hospital with complement of 38 beds.

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppetts Wood Hospital, London, N.20. (*Tel.:* TUDor 9792)	All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1952 at a satisfactory standard in (*a*) quality and (*b*) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—
   532 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.
   2,283 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.
   329 samples of raw water were examined chemically and the results were variable.
   449 samples of supply water were examined chemically and the results were very satisfactory.
3. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 4,655 houses in the district:—
   (*a*) 4,632 or 99.5 per cent are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house.
   (*b*) 12 or .26 per cent by means of standpipes (6 Shenley Parish, 6 Ridge Parish)
   (*c*) 11 or .24 per cent isolated houses have no piped water supply (9 Shenley Parish, 2 Ridge Parish).

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

There were no extensions of sewerage schemes, apart from those in connection with new housing sites.

2. Rivers and Streams

A few cases of minor pollution of streams were investigated. Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. Insecticide as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

With the exception of about 70 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water-closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 12.

(iv) Shops and Offices

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(v) Camping Sites

(*a*) the number of sites in the area in use during 1952 was three, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(*b*) 32 annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.

(*c*) Estimated maximum number of caravans stationed in the area at one time, including holders of individual licences, 141. This would probably give a total population living in caravans in the district of between 350 and 400.

(vi) Smoke Abatement

No statutory action was taken during the year. The Council is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council; the Sanitary Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee.

(vii) Swimming Baths

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. Schools

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

5. Rodent Control

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector. During the year investigation was carried out at 169 properties for the purposes of rodent control, of these, 71 were found to be infested

with rats and 34 seriously infested with mice. These were subsequently treated by the local authority.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but a charge is made for rodent control treatment carried out to business premises.

The annual test baiting of the sewers was carried out covering the whole of the district. 63 manholes were baited and there was one complete take of the baits laid; this manhole and properties on this connection were subsequently treated with poisoned bait.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Summary of action taken during the year is given on page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report. No houses were closed or demolished during the year.

My official representation was submitted, at the close of the year, in connection with the High Street Elstree Clearance Area.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(*a*) Milk Supply

For results of routine sampling and details of licences issued see page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(*b*) Slaughterhouses and Food Supplies

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(*c*) Ice Cream

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 10 cases of Scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths. Four cases were removed to Isolation Hospital.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Routine terminal disinfection has been discontinued except in the cases where other children are in the family or where so requested by the householder. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning. One isolated case, reported during the year, was treated in hospital and recovered.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	81	—	—
Whooping Cough	33	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	7	—
Poliomyelitis	7	7	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever ..				2	2	6						
Diphtheria												
Puerperal Pyrexia ..												
Erysipelas												
Measles		7	9	6	5	54						
Whooping Cough ..	3	3	6	3	5	12			1			
Pneumonia												
Dysentery											4	3
Poliomyelitis	1		1		1	1			3			
Food Poisoning ..				1								

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during* 1952.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..								
1— 5 ..								
5—15 ..			1					
15—25 ..	1	1	2	1				
25—35 ..	1	2						
35—45 ..	2		1					
45—55 ..								
55—65 ..	1							
65 and up ..	1							
TOTALS	6	3	4	1				

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourteenth Annual Report, for the year 1952.

The year has been a noteworthy one in several respects. The Official Representation was submitted to you in connection with the first post-war slum clearance scheme, which you were pleased to accept and approve. There are other houses in the district which should be dealt with in this way and I hope you will be prepared, in due course, to consider further schemes, consistent with your current housing commitments. By means of a routine housing survey and service of notice where necessary, your inspectors are trying to ensure that existing houses are not permitted to fall into extreme disrepair. This work, I feel, is quite as important as building new houses.

In the year under review, the Council carried out work in default under Section 138 of the Public Health Acts 1936, at 26 houses, to improve the existing water supply. Details of other improvements effected are given in the table on page 15.

Although I am conscious of some measure of satisfaction in reporting a good harvest for the year, the work is of such a nature that one can never afford to be smug about what has been done, lest something *to be done* should escape notice. In the field of public health there is *always* something to be done and the most that I can ever say is that if we should chance to win any laurels I promise you we shall be careful not to rest on them!

For your support and encouragement during the year I am most grateful, and I would like also to express my thanks to my colleagues and staff for their never-failing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. Blackhall,
Sanitary Inspector

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Rural Housing Survey:	
Inspections	2
Visits and re-inspections	170
Public Health Act inspections	132
Public Health Act re-inspections	174
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	90
Visits in respect of:	
Infectious diseases	177
Verminous Premises	121
Accumulations	7
Animals	34
Bakehouses	24
Dirty Houses	26
Drainage	276
Factories	76
Smoke nuisance	33
Outworkers	21
Shops	37
Offensive Trades	—
Water Supply	159
Dairies	16
Food Preparers	229
Meat Shops	33
Milk Shops and Purveyors	23
Slaughterhouses	11
Stables and Piggeries	28
Dustbins	43
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	47
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	113
Passage Paving	4
Offices	3
Conveniences	20
Rodent Control	653
Water Courses	31
Housing Accommodation	272
Rag Flock Act	—
Milk and Ice Cream Samples	56
Pet Animals Act	1
TOTAL	3,142

DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices Served.
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc.	52
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	8
Overcrowding	—
Drainage	27
Defective paving of yards and passages	1
Defective w.c. and connections	10
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	16
Choked and insanitary watercourses	2
Filthy or verminous premises	2
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.)	2
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Company)	1
Offensive accumulations	1
Improper keeping of animals	1
Dairies	—
Food preparers	24
Factories and Offices	6
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	2
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	3
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements)	2
Removal of Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structures ..	1
Conveniences	2
Rodent Control (Proofing etc.)	2
TOTAL	165

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Nuisances	Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Houses not reasonably fit	Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	2	2
Insufficient water supply	Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936	1	1

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Premises
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	7
Floors repaired	7
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed	2
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	19
External brickwork repointed or repaired	6
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	1
Dampness remedied	3
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	—
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved	—
Adequate water supply provided	31
Hot and cold supply cisterns repaired or renewed	3
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	28
W.C. and sink connections repaired	9
Paving to yards and passages repaired	1
Dustbins provided	3
Water courses cleansed	2
Accumulations removed	1
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	2
Dairies limewashed	—
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	—
Food preparers' premises improved	16
Rooms disinfected	8
*Verminous houses disinfested	48
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	—
Factory defects remedied	9
Smoke nuisance remedied	1
Moveable dwellings removed	1
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	1
Conveniences improved or repaired	1
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements improved or provided)	2
TOTAL	212

* Including woodworm, ant and wasp infestations.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	–	–	2	–	20
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ..	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	–	–	–	–	–
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ..	–	–	–	–	–
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ..	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	–	–	–	–	1
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis	–	–	–	–	5%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 to 1950

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of retail purveyors

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences ..	7	6	6	19
Supplementary Licences	3	3	3	9

The following table gives particulars of samples taken during the year from purveyors in the district. One sample of pasteurised milk failed the phosphatase test; all other samples were satisfactory.

Total No. of Samples	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
29	—	4	21	4

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947 to 1951

There are 6 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for manufacture and sale, and 19 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Only one manufacturer was actually operating during the year.

25 samples were taken during the year of which 20 were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district and the remainder from the manufacturer within the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:—

Results			
Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
14	4	3	4

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that 72 per cent of samples fall into Grades 1 and 2, and 28 per cent fall into Grades 3 and 4.

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 29

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners .. .. —

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .. 2

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 2

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .. 26

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	8	—	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..	77	66	6	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	2	—	—
TOTAL	90	76	6	—